

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

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Toxic Algae Warnings Ended on Klamath Below Iron Gate

Authorities confirm that blue-green algae levels in Klamath River downstream from Iron Gate dam are now safe

Santa Rosa – This week local, tribal, state, and federal agencies confirmed that the toxic algae levels in the mainstem Klamath River below Iron Gate dam have declined; health warnings are no longer in effect for the mainstem Klamath River below Iron Gate dam.

In Northern California, warnings were originally issued on July 3, 2007 because of the high levels of toxic algae in Copco and Iron Gate reservoirs, and on October 1, 2007 for the Klamath River mainstem below Iron Gate dam. Water sampling by the Klamath Blue-Green Algae Work Group shows that levels of the algae that produce toxins have dropped in the mainstem Klamath River downstream from Iron Gate dam and are no longer potentially harmful to humans and animals. These reduced levels are not likely to be associated with dangerous toxin concentrations in the water, according to the State's Blue Green Algae Workgroup guidance for posting advisories. However, toxic algae concentrations still remain above warning levels in both the Copco and Iron Gate reservoirs and the health alert for these locations will remain in effect until at least two weeks have passed since sampling showing toxic algae populations and/or toxin concentrations fall below warning levels.

Even though the health alert has been lifted for those areas downstream from Iron Gate Dam, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, State Water Resources Control Board, The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, the Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services, and the Yurok and Karuk Tribes advise people who recreate in the river to always be alert for signs of algal blooms. People and their pets should avoid water contact if there are visible scums of algae in the water. For more information, please visit:

World Health Organization Guidelines for Drinking Water Quality, 3rd Edition:

www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/dwg/gdwq3/en/index.html

California Department of Public Health:

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/healthinfo/envirohealth/water/Pages/Bluegreenalgae.aspx>

State Water Resources Control Board

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/bluegreenalgae/index.html>

National Center for Disease Control:

<http://www.cdc.gov/hab/cyanobacteria/facts.htm>

Siskiyou County Public Health Department:

<http://www.co.siskiyou.ca.us/phs/>

(530) 841-2100

County of Humboldt, Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Branch

<http://co.humboldt.ca.us/health/envhealth/>

(707) 445-6215

Yurok Tribe Real Time Water Quality and BGA Data

<http://exchange.yuroktribe.nsn.us/lrgsclient/stations/stations.html>